



ignite

Ignite Action. Accelerate Change.

VOLUNTEER AWARDS CEREMONY



HandsOn
BIRMINGHAM
A program of United Way of Central Alabama



United Way
of Central Alabama, Inc.

APRIL 25, 2017 | THE CLUB - BIRMINGHAM



Drew Langloh

LETTER FROM

United Way President/CEO

Drew Langloh

Thank you for joining us at our inaugural IGNITE Awards. Today, we celebrate a stellar group of unsung individuals thriving with passion, talent and time.

The volunteer engagement strategies of Hands on Birmingham and United Way of Central Alabama produce quality outcomes in our communities that we all enjoy. Our volunteers are the respected backbone of our organizations and cannot put a price on their value in the many roles they play. In turn, through personal growth and discovering hidden talents we

connect them to life-changing experiences. We are actively searching for more of you to support our new and expanded programs.

Congratulations to all our nominees, know that your service has a positive ripple effect that will last forever.

Drew Langloh, President & CEO

United Way of Central Alabama, Inc.



**United Way
of Central Alabama, Inc.**

LETTERS FROM

Hands On Birmingham Director Benga Harrison



Benga Harrison

Welcome Everyone,

It is an honor and truly a privilege to welcome all of you to the first IGNITE Awards Ceremony. Today is a special occasion to honor our heroes who dedicate their time to improve the communities where we live, work and play. At Hands On Birmingham, we strive to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to people where they can make a measurable difference and help bring about positive social change in our community. It has been an amazing experience to witness the contributions of so many citizens that IGNITE us all to care for those around us. Our nominees are the

“roll-up-their-sleeves” volunteers who allocate time from their busy schedule to tend to other’s needs without being compensated for their efforts.

In the spirit of volunteerism, don’t wait for opportunities to come to you. Instead, create your own opportunities or seek ways to enhance the community around you and those who live in it. We also have to remember that we serve as role models to those coming up behind us.

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”

Thank you to those who have been planting trees – let’s join them in making a better world.

We would like to thank you for your time today, and realizing the importance of not only volunteerism, but also supporting each other in the movement. Before we depart today, let us remember to IGNITE Action and Accelerate Change.

Sincerely,
Benga Harrison,
Director, Hands On Birmingham



IGNITE Co-Chairs Carolyn Newton & Jessica Findley



Carolyn Newton



Jessica Findley

More than two years ago, Hands On Birmingham leadership took note of an important need: the need to recognize the impact of volunteerism in our community.

Not just in our community but also around the world, the economic and social impact of volunteerism is largely ignored, and the contributions made through the dedication and discipline of our volunteers continues to go unnoticed.

It is time to shine a light on the amazing transformations taking place in our communities as a result of volunteerism.

To that end, the HOB staff and Cabinet envisioned Ignite as a platform to publicly honor volunteers and to bring awareness to the relentless spirit of volunteerism that has undergirded the Birmingham region’s growth and ascension to the world stage.

We believe our volunteers are unsung heroes whose efforts deserve to be recognized by our political and business leaders, and we hope this platform will serve as a means to do just that.

Join us as we applaud the efforts and impact of volunteers in the Birmingham region.

And while you’re at it, join the movement — **Do good. Feel good. Volunteer.**

All the best,
Jessica Findley and Carolyn Newton
Ignite Co-Chairs

PURPOSE OF THE AWARDS

Hands on Birmingham, a Program of United Way of Central Alabama, introduces Ignite: an innovative awards ceremony designed to publicly recognize the many unsung and dedicated citizens who are outstanding volunteers and service-oriented leaders in Birmingham and surrounding communities.

Each day, committed volunteers ignite action and accelerate change through their service to others. While their actions often go unrecognized, volunteers are truly the catalysts through which real change happens.

For this reason, Hands on Birmingham envisioned Ignite as a platform to pay tribute to those dedicated volunteers who have made significant contributions in service and leadership throughout the Greater Birmingham area.

THANK YOU TO OUR DESIGNERS



CHRIS GOODSON
Communications Director
United Way of Central Alabama

*Thank you Chris for being
the creative genius behind
the Ignite logo.*



AMY SOVEROW
Owner and Designer
The Glass Studio

*Thank you Amy for taking
Chris's design and turning
into a 3-dimensional
"Hands On Fire" Award.*

IGNITE PROGRAM



EVENT MANAGED BY



Host Committee & Nominees Tribute

Welcome & Purpose of Awards - Benga Harrison

Greetings - Drew Langloh
Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

Invocation - Debra Blaylock

Brunch

IGNITE Award Presentations

Volunteer Pledge Commitment - Benga Harrison

Closing Remarks - Benga Harrison
Thomas Wilder

2017 INAUGURAL IGNITE HOST COMMITTEE

The IGNITE Host Committee is comprised of various individuals who serve as community advocates and business leaders throughout the community. They have relentlessly lent their charisma and resources to generate awareness for the first ever IGNITE Volunteer Awards Ceremony. Hands On Birmingham is proud to introduce the 2017 Inaugural IGNITE Host Committee:



CAROL BRUSER
University of Montevallo



J.W. CARPENTER, JD
Birmingham Education
Foundation (BEF)



KWANI CARSON
The City Of Birmingham –
Mayor's Office



DR. JOSH CARTE
University Of Alabama
At Birmingham



RACHEL ESTES
Canterbury UMC



SHIRLEY M. FAGAN
O'Neal Industries



WILL FAGAN
United Way Of Central Alabama



SCOTT FORD
RealtySouth



DEON GORDON
REV Birmingham



ELLYN GRADY
United Way Of
Central Alabama



DEBRA BLAYLOCK
Faith Chapel Christian
Center



JEANNE JACKSON
The Women's Fund



MARK JACKSON
Moreson Conferencing



KOKO MACKIN
Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Of Alabama (BCBS)



ALEX MCCRARY
Alabama Power



**SAMUETTA PRIMUS
NESBITT**
United Way Of Central
Alabama



LAUREN ROBERTS
Junior League of Birmingham



MAURI ROBINSON
Total Quality Logistics (TQL)



**ISABEL WATKINS
RUBIO**
Hispanic Interest Coalition
of Alabama (iHICA!)



JENNIFER SANDERS
Beloved Community
Church, UCC



LAUREN SCHWARTZ
Collat Jewish Family
Services



**KARIM SHAMSI-
BASHA**
Alabama News Center



YOLANDA SULLIVAN
YWCA of Central Alabama



VANESSA VARGAS
Latino News



THOMAS WILDER
Pastor of Bethel
Baptist Church



RANDALL WOODFIN
Birmingham Board
of Education

IGNITE CITIZENS VOLUNTEER AWARD CATEGORIES AND NOMINEES

HANDS ON BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ CASSIDY BONNER
- ★ WENDY MALONE

CORPORATE/COMPANY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ LAJUANA BRADFORD | Regions Bank
- ★ CHARLOTTE CONAWAY | TekLinks
- ★ JON HUGHSTON | Polyone/Glasforms
- ★ ANNE LARY | Regions Bank
- ★ TERESA ZUNIGA ODOM | Alabama Power
- ★ MARGE VANDINE | Alacare Hospice

GOVERNMENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ SHANTE BENDER-COLLINS | State of Alabama
- ★ THERESA DE LEON | Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service
- ★ BRANDON FALLS | Jefferson County District Attorney's Office
- ★ HENRY GIBSON | Mason City Neighborhood Association
- ★ FREDRICK JACKSON | Killough Springs Neighborhood Association
- ★ KEVIN LAMPHERE | Crestwood Neighborhood Association
- ★ CECELIA WILLIAMS | Five Points West Neighborhood Association

NONPROFIT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ ABRA BARNES | Urban Blessings
- ★ CASSIDY BONNER | Salvation Army
- ★ RUSTY BOYD | STAIR of Birmingham
- ★ JAMES CHRISTIAN | McWane Center and Birmingham Zoo
- ★ JAMES COURTNEY | Big Brothers Big Sisters
- ★ DENA DICKERSON | Offender Alumni Association
- ★ FRANCES FAULK
- ★ GINNY GRAVES | Alacare Home Health Hospice
- ★ BRIAN "VOICE PORTER" HAWKINS | The Color Project Ensley
- ★ TRACI HAWKINS | Women of Stamina Ministries International, Inc.

- ★ **MARY JOHNSON-BUTTERWORTH** | YWCA
- ★ **BARBARA KOEHLER** | Crisis Center, Inc.
- ★ **MONICA MCLENDON** | Grace Klein Community
- ★ **PEGGY MYLES**
- ★ **ALEJANDRA OCAMPO** | Girls Incorporated of Central Alabama
- ★ **ERIKA PERRY** | IMPACT Counseling
- ★ **ERICA ROBINS** | Be A Blessing Birmingham
- ★ **WHITNEY SAUNDERS** | Junior League of Birmingham
- ★ **JENNY BROWN SHORT** | Walker County Health Action Partnership
- ★ **RHONDA SIEGEL** | Collat Jewish Family Services
- ★ **FELICIA STEWART** | Alabama Possible
- ★ **ALICE WESTERY** | Youth Towers

STUDENT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ **ROBYN GULLEY** | Birmingham Southern
- ★ **RICARDO ANDRE ORTIZ-BRAIDOT**
- ★ **MADDEN SAVERSE** | University of Montevallo
- ★ **JAMES THORNTON** | Holy Family Cristo Ray Catholic High School
- ★ **FERNANDA HERRERA VERA** | Samford University



SMALL BUSINESS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ **ALEXIS HOPE** | Hope Harbor, LLC
- ★ **MARCO MOROSINI** | Silvertron Cafe
- ★ **JAIRO VARGAS** | Latino News, LLC
- ★ **KIMBERLEY WEATHERINGTON** | Genuine Home Care Services

FAITH BASED VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

NOMINEES

- ★ **SONDA AZBELL** | Church of the Highlands
- ★ **TORRIE CHATMAN** | Beloved Womens Ministry
- ★ **ANNA JAMES** | Independent Presbyterian Church
- ★ **LARRY TURNER JOHNSON** | Adventist Community Services
- ★ **ELIZABETH JUDD** | St. Martins in the Pines
- ★ **DARIUS MCCLURE** | Christ Church
- ★ **SUSAN NEWTON** | Positive Force Ministries
- ★ **ROBBIE NORRIS** | The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
- ★ **ASHLEY SUTTON** | Ashley Speak
- ★ **BARBARA ANDOLINA WEIDE** | St. Martins in the Pines

★ Top 2 finalists in each category

LETTER FROM

Mayor William A. Bell, Sr.

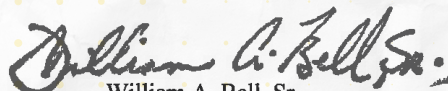
Dear Friends:

On behalf of the marvelous city of Birmingham, I am delighted to extend greetings to Hands On Birmingham on the occasion of your 2017 Ignite Awards ceremony, celebrating the leadership, accomplishments and outstanding community service in Birmingham. It is fitting that we recognize those who have made a lasting impact on the community and who has been a special part of the progress our city has made over the past fifty years.

I would like to offer a special recognition to the great men and women who stand as honorees of this event and say thank you for your dedication and humility. Your good works and tireless deeds is duly noted and appreciated.

Again, I commend Hands On Birmingham for your willingness to recognize the strength, character and integrity of the men and women of Birmingham. It is my sincere hope that you will continue to inspire and motivate our citizens to be the best leaders for generations to come.

Sincerely,


William A. Bell, Sr.
Mayor



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

SPECIAL THANKS

Hands On Birmingham would like to give a special thanks to United Way of Central Alabama for their partnership with Ignite. The resources provided by United Way of Central Alabama were an integral part in making this event a success!



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VOLUNTEER LEADER SPONSORS



FRIENDS SPONSOR

Vulcan Materials Company

TABLE SPONSORS

America's First Federal Credit Union
Arc of Jefferson County
Big Brothers Big Sisters
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama
Collat Jewish Family Services
Genuine Care Home Services
Girls Incorporated
Hands On Birmingham

Junior League - Lauren Roberts
Luckie & Company
Nicole Jackson
Regions Bank
STAIR Birmingham
The Welch Group
TekLink
Trinity Design Group

Pledge Commitment:

I _____
NAME HERE

pledge to volunteer _____ hours
NUMBER OF HOURS

this year to enhance the neighborhood I
live in and promote the spirit of a unified
community.



CONNECT WITH US SOCIALLY

 HANDSONBHAM

 HANDSONBHAM

 HANDSONBIRMINGHAM

CONTACT US

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